WE CLAIM:

1. A computer program product for responding to detection of an outbreak of a computer virus on a computer apparatus, said computer program product comprising:

    (i) sequence data defining a sequence containing a plurality of predefined actions to be followed upon detection of said outbreak;

    (ii) outbreak detection code operable to detect said outbreak; and

    (iii) sequence following code operable to follow said sequence of predefined actions.

2. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sequence of predefined actions is user defined.

3. A computer program product as defined in claim 1, wherein one or more of said predefined actions is performed after receipt of a user input confirming said predefined action.

4. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sequence of predefined actions varies in dependence upon time of day.

5. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sequence of predefined actions varies in dependence upon day of week.

6. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is reducing virus detection notifications.

7. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is switching from virus quarantining to virus deletion when a computer virus is detected.

8. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is increasing scan options that control how thoroughly said computer system is scanned to detect a computer virus.

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9.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is sending a copy of said detected computer virus to a remote site for analysis.

10.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is downloading a latest virus definition file from a remote site.

11.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is downloading a latest virus definition file from a remote site.

12.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is performing a complete virus scan of all computer files stored in at least a portion of said computer apparatus.

13.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is blocking e-mail attachments.

14.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 13, wherein said predefined action of blocking e-mail attachments blocks identical attachments appearing in excess of a threshold level.

15.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is rendering non-accessible e-mail distribution lists and e-mail address books of e-mail clients coupled to said computer apparatus.

16.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is restarting in administrator mode an e-mail post office coupled to said computer apparatus.

17.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is closing down an e-mail post office coupled to said computer apparatus.

18.   A method of responding to detection of an outbreak of a computer virus on a computer apparatus, said method comprising:

(i)   defining a sequence containing a plurality of predefined actions to be followed upon detection of said outbreak;

(ii)   detecting said outbreak; and

(iii)   following said sequence of predefined actions.

19.   A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said sequence of predefined actions is user defined.

20.   A method as defined in claim 18, wherein one or more of said predefined actions is performed after receipt of a user input confirming said predefined action.

21.   A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said sequence of predefined actions varies in dependence upon time of day.

22.   A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said sequence of predefined actions varies in dependence upon day of week.

23.   A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is reducing virus detection notifications.

24.   A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is switching from virus quarantining to virus deletion when a computer virus is detected.

25.   A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is increasing scan options that control how thoroughly said computer system is scanned to detect a computer virus.

26.   A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is sending a copy of said detected computer virus to a remote site for analysis.

27.   A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is downloading a latest virus definition file from a remote site.

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28.   A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is downloading a latest virus definition file from a remote site.

29.   A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is performing a complete virus scan of all computer files stored in at least a portion of said computer apparatus.

30.   A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is blocking e-mail attachments.

31.   A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein said predefined action of blocking e-mail attachments blocks identical attachments appearing in excess of a threshold level.

32.   A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is rendering non-accessible e-mail distribution lists and e-mail address books of e-mail clients coupled to said computer apparatus.

33.   A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is restarting in administrator mode an e-mail post office coupled to said computer apparatus.

34.   A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is closing down an e-mail post office coupled to said computer apparatus.

35.   Apparatus for responding to detection of an outbreak of a computer virus on a computer apparatus, said computer program product comprising:

sequence data storage storing sequence data defining a sequence containing a plurality of predefined actions to be followed upon detection of said outbreak;

outbreak detection logic operable to detect said outbreak; and

sequence following logic operable to follow said sequence of predefined actions.

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36.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein said sequence of predefined actions is user defined.

37.   A computer program product as defined in claim 35, wherein one or more of said predefined actions is performed after receipt of a user input confirming said predefined action.

38.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein said sequence of predefined actions varies in dependence upon time of day.

39.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein said sequence of predefined actions varies in dependence upon day of week.

40.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is reducing virus detection notifications.

41.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is switching from virus quarantining to virus deletion when a computer virus is detected.

42.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is increasing scan options that control how thoroughly said computer system is scanned to detect a computer virus.

43.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is sending a copy of said detected computer virus to a remote site for analysis.

44.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is downloading a latest virus definition file from a remote site.

45.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is downloading a latest virus definition file from a remote site.

46.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is performing a complete virus scan of all computer files stored in at least a portion of said computer apparatus.

47.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is blocking e-mail attachments.

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~~47.~~   A computer program product as claimed in claim 46, wherein said predefined action of blocking e-mail attachments blocks identical attachments appearing in excess of a threshold level.

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~~49.~~   A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is rendering non-accessible e-mail distribution lists and e-mail address books of e-mail clients coupled to said computer apparatus.

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~~50.~~   A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is restarting in administrator mode an e-mail post office coupled to said computer apparatus.

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~~51.~~   A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is closing down an e-mail post office coupled to said computer apparatus.